



Harmony, Inc.

International Organization of Women Barbershop Singers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HARMONY, INC. PARTNERS WITH SING CANADA TO SUPPORT DIRECTORS' EDUCATION

Women's Barbershop Harmony Organization Invests in Musical Leadership with Directors First

STANDISH, MAINE, JANUARY 4, 2017 — Harmony, Incorporated, an international organization of female *a cappella* singers specializing in the barbershop harmony style, and Sing Canada, one of the leading charities supporting education in the *a cappella* and barbershop communities, have partnered to support Canadian musical directors receiving scholarships for best-in-class training opportunities. The organizations teamed up to accomplish the aggressive goals set forth in Harmony, Inc.'s Directors First initiative, a strategic fundraising campaign focused exclusively on sending the musical leaders in the organization to Harmony University, an annual intensive educational workshop for barbershop harmony singers.

"We saw a natural alliance opportunity with Sing Canada," said Christina Lewellen, president of Harmony, Inc. "Sing Canada exists to provide scholarships to Canadian musicians so the goals of Directors First—sending Harmony, Inc. directors to Harmony University—and the fact that about half of our membership resides in Canada made this a natural fit."

Further, Canadian supporters will receive a tax receipt for their income tax purposes. "While Harmony, Inc. is an organization that serves women who love lifelong singing in both Canada and the United States, being based in the states limits our ability to offer our Canadian members the same tax benefits for donating to the campaign as we do our U.S. members. Sing Canada's charity status in Canada, matched by its long track record of supporting barbershop harmony musical leaders, offered a perfect partnership for helping us accomplish the goals of Directors First."

"Sing Canada Harmony is very pleased to be able to support the Harmony, Incorporated Directors First initiative," said Sharon Towner on behalf of the Sing Canada Board of Directors.

Directors First is a fundraising campaign launched in late 2016 with the singular goal of sending as many as 60 directors and musical leaders to Harmony University, a week-long education conference hosted by the Barbershop Harmony Society, in the next five years. This means that one director or musical leader such as an assistant director from each chapter in Harmony, Inc. will be afforded the opportunity to attend Harmony University with Directors First funding.

"We understand that strong chapters are built, quite literally, by the hands of the musical leadership," Lewellen noted. "In Harmony, Inc., we have chapters large and small spread throughout the United States and Canada.

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With a strong musical leader offering fun, educational, and engaging rehearsals week after week, we deliver on our promise to promote lifelong singing among women of all backgrounds and experience levels.”

Harmony, Inc. celebrates and preserves the barbershop harmony style, which traces its musical roots back to the turn of the 20th century. Today, barbershop harmony singers not only celebrate the classics, but also put their own spin on contemporary songs as well. For more information, visit HarmonyInc.org.

About Harmony, Incorporated:

Harmony, Inc. is an international, non-profit organization whose purpose is to empower all women through education, friendship and a cappella singing in the barbershop style. Since 1959, the organization has expanded from its Eastern roots to include more than 60 chapters in the United States and Canada, from California to Newfoundland, and from Manitoba to Florida. For more information, visit HarmonyInc.org.

About Sing Canada:

The Sing Canada Harmony Scholarship Fund is a registered charity established in 2008 to unite Canadian a cappella singers through service to youth and children in schools and communities. The fund provides financial assistance for educational and training opportunities in singing vocal music performance, vocal music leadership, vocal music administration and vocal music composition, arrangement, adjudication and staging. Sing Canada Harmony is the official charity of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) in Canada and, is endorsed and supported as a special charity by Canadian Members and Chapters of Harmony, Inc. and Sweet Adelines International. Principal learning opportunities supported by Sing Canada Harmony scholarships for Canadians, while all inclusive of the music community to some degree, are typically those sponsored by these three organizations. For more information, visit SingCanadaHarmony.ca.

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